
PIPE & PEDAL

Monthly newsletter of the Baltimore Chapter, American Guild of Organists
January 2024

Dean's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a wonderful Holiday Season and are ready to face 2024.

Many of us make resolutions to improve our health, fitness, diet, etc. in the New Year. I encourage you to find opportunities not only to improve your health but also to hone your professional skills this year. One great way to start on this is to join us for the Baltimore AGO Education Day on Monday, January 15 at The Maryland State Boychoir Center for the Arts. (Thank you to Stephen Holmes and The Maryland State Boychoir for hosting us.)

We have an exciting program and superb presenters scheduled for the day. Sign-up right away, using the link in this issue of Pipe & Pedal. Not only will you have the opportunity to learn, but there is also time to connect and reconnect with your colleagues. I look forward to seeing you on January 15.

Bert



Upcoming Baltimore Chapter AGO Events

Monday 15 January 2024 Education Day with The Maryland State Boychoir

Come join us for a morning of learning and camaraderie!
Both of our clinicians lead dynamic music programs in
thriving churches and bring a wealth of experience to their
sessions.



Julie Evans



David Schelat

Schedule - Monday 15 January 2024

- 9:30 – Fellowship/Coffee
- 10:00 – Organ Music for Worship – Julie Evans, Director of Music – Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC
- 11:00 – Music for Small Choirs – David Schelat, Minister of Music - 1st & Central Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, DE
- 12:00 – Lite lunch sponsored by The Maryland State Boychoir

Notes

- A complimentary lite lunch will be provided by The Maryland State Boychoir and registration is requested so that we may have an accurate count.
- Choral Packets are \$15 each. Payment can be made online (see below), or via check on January 15.

Please register by January 10

- Register online and reserve your choral packet at <http://www.baltimoreago.org/2024educationday>
- Register via email: Email Marvin Mills at VanMillsMusic@gmail.com (subject: January Ed Day 2024)

Location:

The Maryland State Boychoir Center for the Arts
3400 Norman Ave
Baltimore, MD 21213

Other Upcoming BAGO Programs

- February 27, 7:30 PM – Organ Music of Black Composers, Dr. Roy Belfield, Director of Music Ministries, Towson United Methodist Church
- April 14, 3:00 PM – Hymn Sing, Rev. Dr. Mike McMahon, Executive Director, The Hymn Society
- May 21, 7:00 PM – Members Recital featuring Scholarship Students

Wishing you a Happy (AI) New Year!

With the burgeoning world of AI (artificial intelligence), this newsletter editor felt that it may be of interest to hear what AI has to say on the world of organs. If you have any pressing questions for AI, send them to pipeandpedal@baltimoreago and we will present them here.

Much like an improvisation, we will submit a theme (prompt) to Krumchamade Fullbellows, our AI persona, and present the results here, for your reading “pleasure.”



Prompt: Write a 250 New Year's Greeting in the style of Johann Sebastian Bach

Esteemed Patrons and Admirers,

As the temporal journey concludes and we stand on the precipice of a nascent annum, I extend to you my sincerest felicitations for the imminent cycle that awaits. Much like the harmonious convergence of contrapuntal voices in Bach's compositions, may your lives be graced with an intricate interplay of joy and triumph in the forthcoming movement of time.

Let the echoes of the past be but a prelude to the symphony that unfolds before you. With disciplined resolve and an unwavering dedication to excellence, may you orchestrate a tapestry of endeavors that resonate with the grandeur of a Bach fugue. As the polyphonic strands of your aspirations intertwine, may the resulting harmony reverberate through the corridors of your existence.

In the spirit of Bach's meticulous compositions, may the resolutions you forge be as precise as a well-executed cadenza. Embrace the challenges with the fortitude of a resilient melody, knowing that the cadence of perseverance will lead you to triumphant resolutions.

With the precision of a maestro conducting a masterpiece, navigate the passages of the new year with poise and purpose. May the coming days be a flourishing concerto, adorned with cadences of achievement and resounding chords of contentment.

In the timeless language of music, I wish you a Happy New Year, adorned with the divine harmonies of prosperity, joy, and the perpetual pursuit of excellence.

Harmoniously Yours,
Krumchamade Fullbellows

Local & Local-ish Events

To submit individual events for listing on the Baltimore AGO Calendar and in the *Pipe & Pedal*, please visit <http://www.baltimoreago.org/submit-events>.

Events through 15 February 2024 are listed below.
For a full listing of events, please visit <https://www.baltimoreago.org/events>

Sunday 7 January, 3:00p

Christmas & Epiphany Chancel Choir Concert

Grace United Methodist Church (5407 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210)

Join Grace's Chancel Choir and Soloists as we retell the Christmas story through song. A free will offering will be available to support Grace Music Ministry.

Sunday 7 January 2024, 4:00p

Charm City Bronze Handbell Ensemble & Friends

Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (8501 Loch Raven Blvd., Towson, MD, 21286)

Part of the IHM Concert Series

A New Years Celebration

Baltimore's premier handbell ensemble presents sacred, classical, and popular music led by Artistic Director & Founder, Beau Lochte. This exciting program will feature music for handbells with guest soloists including harp, flute, trumpet, cello and organ.

Series Flyer: [Download or Print Here](#)

Concert Flyer: [Download or Print Here](#)

Sunday 7 January 2024, 5:00p

Epiphany Lessons and Hymns

The Church of the Redeemer (5603 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210)

An interfaith service of readings and hymns celebrating servant leaders for social justice. The offering will be donated to Baltimoreans United In Leadership Development (BUILD).

Sunday 7 January, 8:00p

Compline in the Octave of Epiphany

Grace & St. Peter's Episcopal Church (707 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21201)

Compline is descended from the night prayers said before bed at the end of the monastic round of daily prayer. Compline is a simple office including a confession of sins, one or more psalms, a short reading from scripture, versicles and responses, the Lord's Prayer, collects which ask for God's protection during the night to come, and the canticle 'Nunc dimittis.' This ancient service is sung by a schola cantorum in the darkness of candlelight and lasts approximately 20 minutes. Reception will follow.

Tuesday 16 January 2024, 5:30p Reception / 6:00p Concert

Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer

Emmanuel Episcopal Church (811 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201)

Part of the Music at Emmanuel Season

Cathy Fink, vocals & instrumentals | Marcy Marxer, vocals & instrumentals

Having won two Grammy Awards, folk musicians Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer are master performers with a career spanning more than three decades and thousands of shows for audiences of all ages. Their superb vocal harmonies are rooted in the sounds of Appalachia, and are supported by their unmatched virtuosity on guitar, banjo, ukulele, mandolin, cello-banjo, and many other instruments! Bring the whole family for this fun and engaging program featuring two of Maryland's musical legends!

Tickets \$10/\$15, in advance or at the door. Series website and tickets:

emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com

Sunday 21 January 2024, 3:30p

Nathaniel Gumbs, organ

Second Presbyterian Church (4200 Saint Paul St. Baltimore, MD 21218)

Nathaniel Gumbs, recognized by The Diapason magazine in 2017 as one of 20 outstanding organists under 30 years old, currently serves as Director of Chapel Music at Yale University and performs throughout the United States and abroad. The New York Times describes his playing as "mature, lyrical, accurate, and energetic." Spanning centuries and styles, this program includes works by Bonnet, Franck, Haywood, Price, Stoddart, Widor, and more, all played on the Casavant Freres Organ at Second Presbyterian Church.

Link to Event: <http://cc2nd.org>

Online Event: This event will be available online

Sunday 21 January 2024, 5:00p

Choral Evensong for the Confession of St. Peter

Grace & St. Peter's Episcopal Church (707 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21201)

One of the treasures of the Anglican tradition, Evensong is a service of sung evening prayer that combines music with readings from scripture and ancient prayers. The Grace and St. Peter's Choir will offer Edward Bairstow's *Evening Service in D* and Josef Reinberger's "Abendlied", Op 69, No. 3. A festive reception will follow.

Sunday 21 January 2024, 8:00p

Compline – Prayer at the Close of Day

The Church of the Redeemer, Chapel (5603 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210)

Sung by the Compline Schola. Chapel doors open at 7:45p.

Sunday 28 January 2024, 4:00p

Fauré's *Requiem*

Emmanuel Episcopal Church (811 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201)

Part of the Music at Emmanuel Season

The Emmanuel Choir, Christian Lane, director | Nicole Stover, soprano
Morgan Sullivan, baritone | Evan Wesley Currie, organ

Marking 100 years since the death of Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924) — one of the greatest French composers of all time — The Emmanuel Choir, soloists, and chamber orchestra perform one of Fauré's most enduring works, the monumental and translucent *Requiem*. Renowned for its tremendous emotional depth and its long, soaring melodies, the Requiem anchors this program of French music, which also includes powerful works by Maurice Duruflé, Darius Milhaud, and Francis Poulenc.

Tickets \$35/\$25/\$10, in advance or at the door. Series website and tickets:

emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com

Sunday 28 January, 5:00p

Choral Evensong for the Feast of Charles, King and Martyr

Grace & St. Peter's Episcopal Church (707 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21201)

One of the treasures of the Anglican tradition, Evensong is a service of sung evening prayer that combines music with readings from scripture and ancient prayers. The Grace and St. Peter's Choir will offer Charles V. Stanford's *Evening Service in B-flat* and Ralph V. Williams' "Let all the world." A festive reception will follow.

Sunday 4 February 2024, 5:00p

Evensong for Epiphanytide

The Church of the Redeemer (5603 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210)

With the Redeemer Choir

Sunday 4 February 2024, 8:00p

Compline for Candlemas

Grace & St. Peter's Episcopal Church (707 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21201)

Compline is descended from the night prayers said before bed at the end of the monastic round of daily prayer. Compline is a simple office including a confession of sins, one or more psalms, a short reading from scripture, versicles and responses, the Lord's Prayer, collects which ask for God's protection during the night to come, and the canticle 'Nunc dimittis.' This ancient service is sung by a schola cantorum in the darkness of candlelight and lasts approximately 20 minutes. Reception will follow.

Tuesday 6 February 2024, 5:30p Reception / 6:00p Concert
Songs of Dissent - Robin McGinness, baritone | John Henderson, piano
Emmanuel Episcopal Church (811 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201)
Part of the Music at Emmanuel Season

Whether portraying strikingly vivid characters in dramatic opera or soloing center stage at Carnegie Hall, **Robin McGinness** moves audiences with “impressive singing” (*Baltimore Sun*) and a “warm baritone” (*Washington Post*).

In this recital, Robin partners with pianist **John Henderson** to offer *Songs of Dissent* — a stunning program of American art song featuring *Civil Words*, Pulitzer and Grammy-winning composer **Jennifer Higdon**’s 2015 song cycle setting texts from the American Civil War. Also included are powerful songs by **Charles Ives**, **Samuel Barber**, **Kurt Weill**, and a work of Baltimore-based composer **Max Eidinoff**. To close the program, Robin sings **Stacy Garrop**’s mesmerizing song, *My dearest Ruth*, which sets Marty Ginsburg’s final love letter to his wife — and American legal icon — former Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Tickets \$10/\$15, in advance or at the door. Series website and tickets:
emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com

Tuesday 6 February 2024, 7:00p
Thoughtful Gestures: A Workshop on Communication & Leadership for the Choral Conductor
Glen Burnie United Methodist Church (5 2nd Ave. SE, Glen Burnie, MD 21061)

Creative Voice Practitioner Polly Baldrige will uplift the power of gestures and patterns used in conducting, singing, and interpersonal relationships to impact communication, expression, and group identity and culture. Participants will consider their unique circumstances and personal strengths to evaluate and expand their strategies for sustaining a positive and supportive environment within their ensemble. Polly’s insight is informed by a 25-year career as a performing artist, conductor, voice teacher, arts administrator, and sacred musician. She is a DMA candidate in voice pedagogy and owns and operates her own voice studio and the Giving Voice Project community arts organization.

Link to Event: <https://annapolisago.org/events/>

Friday 9 February 2024, 7:00p
Paul Jacobs, Organist in Recital
Grace United Methodist Church (5407 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210)

Paul Jacobs will perform on the rebuilt 54 rank (pipe) and 50 rank (digital) Moeller organ at Grace Church. An extraordinarily expressive performer and an intensely intelligent musician, Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs is helping the King of Instruments retake its rightful place in classical music.

This event is free. A donation of \$25 is suggested to support the concert and the Music Ministry at Grace Church.

Friday 9 February 2024, 7:30p

Marvin Mills, organ – Organ Music by African American Composers

The Church of the Redeemer (5603 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210)

A diverse program of music from the last 100 years featuring works of African American composers, including: David Hurd, Florence Price, William Grant Still, and Baltimore native H. Thomas Kerr, Jr., showcasing the kaleidoscopic colors of the Redeemer organ.

Tuesday 13 February 2024, 6:00p

Mardi Gras with Hot Club of Baltimore, Michael Joseph Harris, band leader

Emmanuel Episcopal Church (811 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201)

Part of the Music at Emmanuel Season

Back by popular demand, Michael Joseph Harris and the Hot Club of Baltimore return to Emmanuel for a special Mardi Gras celebration. This year, however, join us for more than simply a concert! Rather, we have planned a fully festive evening — one filled with delicious food and foot-tapping New Orleans Jazz in Emmanuel's Great Hall.

Your ticket includes dinner and spots are limited. Book yours today!

Tickets \$25, in advance. Series website and tickets: emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com

Placement Service

placement@BaltimoreAGO.org

Please visit <https://www.baltimoreago.org/placements> any time to see open positions.

Loch Raven United Methodist Church - Organist/Pianist (placed 29 Nov 2023)

Address: 6622 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21239

Phone: (410) 825-0900

Size of Congregation: < 99

Contact Name: Maurita Bowie

Contact Phone: (410) 825-0900

Contact Email: office@lrumc.org

Number of weekly services or liturgies: 1

Number of weekly rehearsals: 1

Number of music ensembles: 3

Average Ensemble Size: 10

Total Hours per Week: 10

Type of Instrument: Moeller Pipe Organ

Music budget this fiscal year: \$2,000

Annual Minimum Salary: \$20,800

Annual Maximum Salary: \$20,800

Other relevant details about the position.: The Organist is responsible for providing musical accompaniment for the choirs and congregation of Loch Raven UMC. Responsibilities include the accompaniment of all musical rehearsals, choir performances, and all worship services by playing the organ/piano throughout the year. Rehearse with and accompany all soloists and ensembles scheduled throughout the year. Substitute for the Music Director as needed. Play for funerals, memorial services, and weddings being held at Loch Raven UMC when requested. This is a part-time position based on ten to fifteen hours a week including Sunday services, rehearsals, and other special services. A full job description is available at www.lrumc.org.

Calvary United Methodist Church – Organist (placed 10 Oct. 2023)

Address: 301 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis, MD 21401 USA

Phone: (410) 268-1776

Size of Congregation: 600-699

Contact Name: Karen Schnell

Contact Phone: (410) 268-1776

Contact Email: office@calumc.org

Number of weekly services or liturgies: 1

Number of weekly rehearsals: 1

Number of music ensembles: 1

Average Ensemble Size: 20

Total Hours per Week: 15

Type of Instrument: Möller 3 manual 37 rank

Music budget this fiscal year: \$29,000

Annual Minimum Salary: \$28,000

Annual Maximum Salary: \$28,000

This position provides: Sick leave, Continuing education/Professional development funding, Study/professional leave

Other relevant details about the position: For complete job description, go to: www.CalUMC.org.

Please submit your cover letter, resume, three professional references and a video of your performance of two contrasting organ solos, as well as a selection demonstration skills at accompanying. Send via email to Ms. Karen Schnell at office@calumc.org Subject: Organist Search.

BALTIMORE CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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PLACEMENT – SUB LIST

Louis Gephardt-Gorsuch
Placement@BaltimoreAGO.org

For forms and further information see our website: www.BaltimoreAGO.org